

California Air National Guard YEAR IN REVIEW

2002



March 2003



Major General
Daniel J. Gibson

Commander, California
Air National Guard

As we begin 2003 and tackle both new and familiar challenges, I hope each of you will take the opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments and the many ways in which we served and continued to answer the nation's call during 2002. To simply say that last year was busy would not adequately describe the scope and importance of all that you are doing as members of the California Air National Guard. From the early stages of partial mobilization, through your support of the Airport Security Mission, Operations NOBLE EAGLE, NORTHERN and SOUTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM and various activities currently underway around the world, your support has never been more vital to our nation.

Operationally, the California Air National Guard set new standards last year. By year's end, 725 personnel expended over 43,000 workdays overseas with an equal number already either committed or mobilized through 2003.

Your great work has not gone unnoticed. Whether it is a unit or an individual award, a letter of appreciation, or a good news story that makes the press, I receive reminders almost daily about the commitment and many accomplishments of our talented men and women. I am proud to be serving with each of you and extend my heartfelt appreciation to you and your family for your continued service and sacrifice.

Some California Air National Guard members receiving awards and special recognition during 2002 included Lieutenant Thomas Venable from the 129th Rescue Wing who was selected as our Company Grade Officer of the Year. Also, Lieutenant Colonel Nancy Sumner from the 146th Airlift Wing was selected as our Field Grade Officer of the Year. Our outstanding Airmen of the Year included Senior Airman Januari J. Reyes from the 162nd Combat Communications Group,



Staff Sergeant Yvonne E. Minor from the 129th Rescue Wing, Senior Master Sergeant Jeffrey A. Sutherland from the 144th Fighter Wing, and Master Sergeant Jeri A. Nieberding from the 146th Airlift Wing. Congratulations to the best of the best!

Throughout 2002, transformation took center stage in the DoD, and the California Air National Guard was deeply involved. For several years, we have led the nation in exploring and implementing new missions. Those efforts have now been formally aligned with National Guard Bureau, Air Force, and Department of Defense strategies. The opportunities and challenges presented with transformation are both exciting and formidable. As your commander, I ask for your continued commitment both individually and organizationally as we work to meet those challenges.

I am committed to ensure that your safety, morale and quality of life concerns are met as our operational commitments, training requirements, and inspections increase. It is important for all of us to remember that we are engaged in a war against an enemy who is threatening our very way of life. We are fighting, much as our parents and grandparents fought, to ensure that our children will be able to experience the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy in this great country. Please keep up the great work, stay focused, and be proud of your sacrifice and accomplishments. You are among America's finest! ■



Chief Master Sergeant Henry V. Fernandez

State Command Chief Master Sergeant

As we close the books on 2002, and prepare for the many challenges in 2003, I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the outstanding job you do for your community, state and nation. Rather than detail our many accomplishments, I want to recognize your many sacrifices for this great country and let you know that the California Air National Guard's Enlisted Corps is doing its very best to ensure that we are ready, reliable, and relevant. During 2002, the California Air Guard played a key role in Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, NORTHERN and SOUTHERN WATCH, and NOBLE EAGLE. In every operation, our Air Guard members are complimented by active duty commanders for their extensive knowledge, willingness to serve, and total professionalism. Our combat readiness is high, and the Air Force depends on the experience and many skills we bring to a theater of operation. It is incumbent upon us to foster a trusting relationship with our active duty brethren, and, together, secure our part of the Total Force.

In addition to combat readiness, Family Readiness and Employer Support are two critical areas that must be addressed in order to ensure that our forces are reliable. Each of our organizations has an operational family program. Could the program be better? Maybe. But what we have now is working, and I encourage everyone to ensure that your family receives the attention it deserves. I also encourage everyone to share your successes and failures with each other, and, together, we will ensure that our family readiness programs grow even stronger. As a Traditional Guardsman, I know first hand how important an employer is in helping us accomplish our state and federal missions. Like us, our employers are patriots, and they have been making the necessary sacrifices to support the Air National Guard



in fighting our nation's War on Terrorism. This support can easily wane if we do not keep our employers informed regarding our mobilization and demobilization status. We must also continue recognizing our employers for their important role as defenders of peace.

Today, the word "Transformation" is being discussed at the highest levels in government. My definition of transformation is not simply change, but being relevant. I am pleased to say that our California Air National Guard senior leaders are on the leading edge of transformation, ensuring that we move in the same direction as the Air Force, and acquiring new missions that will secure our future as a relevant force provider to our country. Re-rolling some existing forces to new mission areas such as Space, Intelligence, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) is absolutely vital to remaining relevant.

During my frequent visits to our units, many Guardsmen ask if our present OP/PERSTEMPO will ever decrease. Well, my crystal ball is about the same as yours, and, like you, I cannot predict the future with any degree of accuracy. But I can predict that the California Air National Guard will be a ready, reliable, and relevant combat force for our state and nation whenever and wherever needed.

It is a privilege to serve as your State Command Chief. You are the world's finest fighting force and among America's best. Thank you for your dedicated service as we continue serving our great nation with pride, professionalism, and honor. ■



MOFFETT
FEDERAL
AIRFIELD

129th Rescue Wing

CALIFORNIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

100 airmen from the 129th Rescue Wing performed security duties at the San Jose International Airport.

Aircrews and PJs from the 129th Rescue Wing deployed to Kuwait for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, where they assisted in patrolling the no-fly zone over southern Iraq.



ABOVE: A MC-130P greets the dawn and perhaps another opportunity for a lifesaving mission.

LARGE PHOTO: A HH-60G "Pavehawk" helicopter is refueled over the Pacific.

The 129th Rescue Wing completed another very active year participating in a number of key operational and training deployments. The 129th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) was called upon to support Operation ENDURING FREEDOM at a classified location from early June through September. It joined other security forces responsible for securing an airfield and a tent city that housed 1,200 U.S. personnel. The 129th provided the command element and performed a wide range of assignments, including patrolling base perimeters in armored HUMMVs and all-terrain vehicles, laying concertina wire and operating the latest surveillance and detection equipment.

During Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) Eight, the 129th Rescue Wing provided personnel recovery capabilities to coalition



Col James T. Williams
Commander

fighters patrolling in Operation NORTHERN WATCH, the no-fly zone over northern Iraq. Additional aircrews and pararescuemen deployed to Kuwait for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, where they assisted in patrolling the no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

The 129th continued homeland security and homeland defense. During the period of October 2001 and February 2002, approximately 30 members of the 129th SFS were activated under Operation NOBLE EAGLE to provide security services to Beale AFB. One hundred airmen from the 129th SFS also performed security duties at the San Jose International Airport.

The 129th Rescue Wing further contributed to its motto "These Things We Do That Others May Live" by saving two more lives in 2002, bringing the wing's total to an impressive 295 saves. The year's first save was a sailor with

appendicitis rescued from a ship located 1,000 miles at sea. The wing's second save was an 18-year-old fisherman in Keflavik, Iceland.

In October, Lt Gen Daniel James III, the newly appointed Director of the Air National Guard, presented the 129th Rescue Wing with the Air Force Association's Outstanding Air National Guard Flying Unit Award. During 2002, the wing also earned the Air Combat Command Flight Safety Award. Additionally, pararescuemen MSgt Mel Hinshaw and TSgt Damon Foss were awarded the Airman's Medal for risking their lives while saving a family whose house was consumed by fire.

The 129th lost one of its own in 2002. Technical Sergeant John E. Horton, a pararescueman, died during a training mission as the result of an all-terrain vehicle accident. His positive influence affected everyone. Johnny will be missed, but never forgotten. ■

During 2002, the 129th Rescue Wing earned the Air Combat Command's Flight Safety Award.

The 129th Rescue Wing saved two more lives in 2002, bringing the Wing's total to an impressive 295 saves.

HELICOPTER PHOTO BY TSGT ANDREW HUGHAN, 129TH RESCUE WING. MC-130P PHOTO, OFFICIAL USAF PHOTO



FRESNO
AIR NATIONAL
GUARD BASE

144th Fighter Wing

CALIFORNIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Since 9/11, the 144th has flown over 812 combat support sorties and 2,075 training sorties totaling over 4,900 flying hours.

Captain William D. Johnson and Master Sergeant Kenneth D. Gray, of the 144th Fighter Wing, were awarded the California National Guard's Military Cross for Heroism for saving the lives of others without regard to personal safety.

An F-16C "Falcon" from Fresno's 144th Fighter Wing soars high above San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge during a Combat Air Patrol Mission in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE.

The 144th Fighter Wing had another busy year in 2002. With the continued efforts of Operations NOBLE EAGLE and ENDURING FREEDOM in full swing, many members of the 144th were deployed at home station and at locations overseas. Despite the high operations tempo, the wing was able to maintain unparalleled F-16C aircraft delivery and mission capable rates. Most notable is that the 144th continues to maintain its 100 percent aircraft delivery rate



Col William P. Skains
Commander

The 144th continues to maintain its 100 percent aircraft delivery rate for Operation NOBLE EAGLE.

Two F-16Cs from the 144th joined the ranks of two other Air National Guard F-16C units by logging over 5,000 flying hours – a remarkable feat.

for Operation NOBLE EAGLE. In addition to the wing maintaining two separate alert sites in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE, it also participated in a key multinational exercise with the Israeli Air Force. Since 9/11, the 144th has flown over 812 combat support sorties and 2,075 training sorties totaling over 4,900 total flying hours.

The 144th Fighter Wing also excelled in its recent Environmental, Safety, and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment and Management Program, receiving high marks from the Air Force Inspection Team. The 144th Fighter Wing also received the Governor's Outstanding Unit Citation for its superior post-9/11 performance. In addition

to operational commitments, the 144th continues to train and conduct readiness exercises.

The 144th Fighter Wing also supports the local community, and participates in fly-bys and static displays throughout California. It contributed over \$8,000 to local, nonprofit organizations through its "Fighter Pilot for a Day" program.

The year was also a cause for celebration for the 144th Fighter Wing when two of its F-16Cs logged over 5,000 flying hours. This remarkable feat was made possible by the "lean-forward" maintenance practice for which the 144th is well known throughout the fighter community. ■

PHOTO BY LT COL J. T. TAGGETT



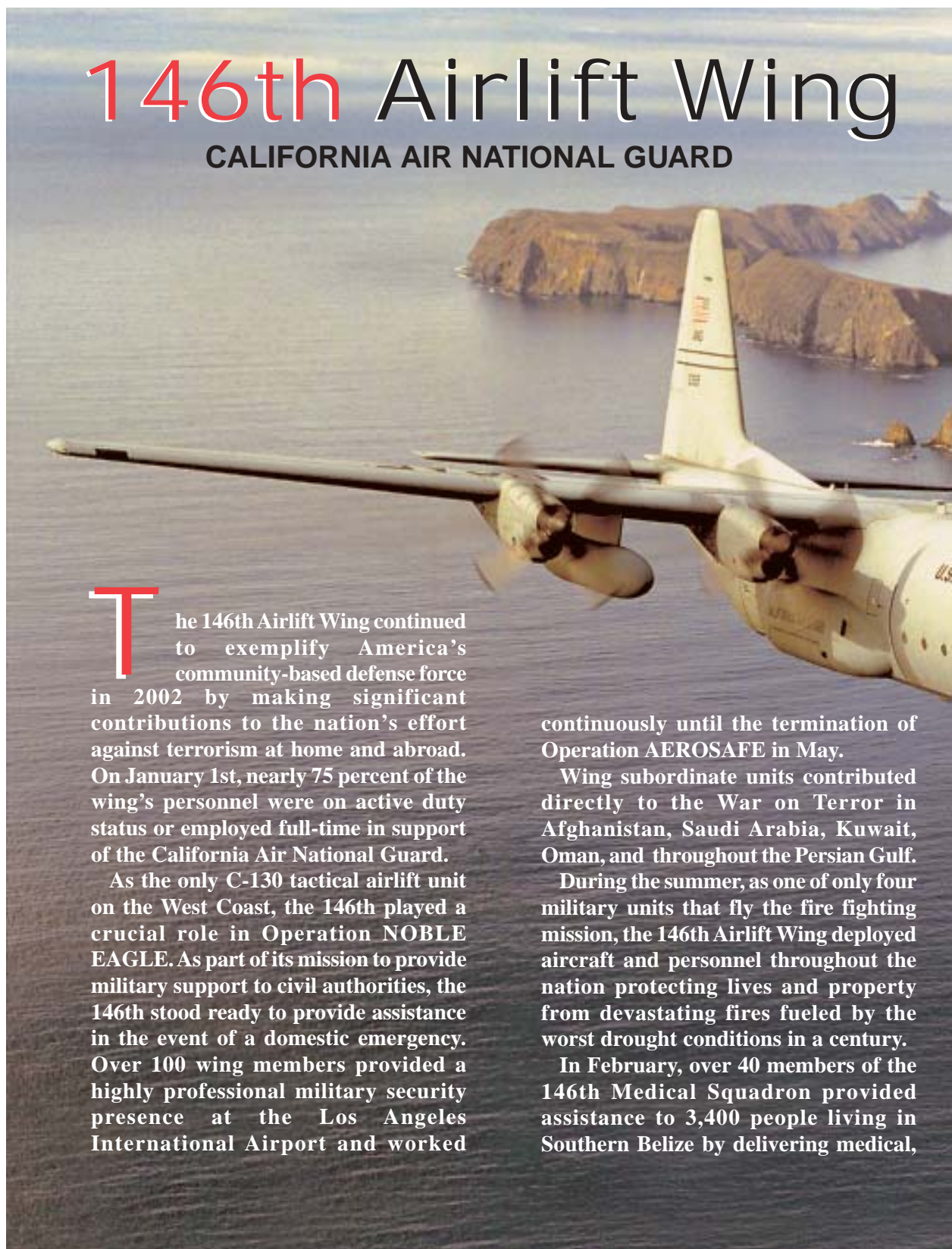
CHANNEL
ISLANDS ANG
STATION

The 146th Airlift Wing received an overall rating of "Excellent" on its Unit Compliance Inspection.

The 146th Medical Squadron performed humanitarian missions in Belize, providing medical aid to a population with limited access to health care.

146th Airlift Wing

CALIFORNIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD



The 146th Airlift Wing continued to exemplify America's community-based defense force in 2002 by making significant contributions to the nation's effort against terrorism at home and abroad. On January 1st, nearly 75 percent of the wing's personnel were on active duty status or employed full-time in support of the California Air National Guard.

As the only C-130 tactical airlift unit on the West Coast, the 146th played a crucial role in Operation NOBLE EAGLE. As part of its mission to provide military support to civil authorities, the 146th stood ready to provide assistance in the event of a domestic emergency. Over 100 wing members provided a highly professional military security presence at the Los Angeles International Airport and worked

continuously until the termination of Operation AEROSAFE in May.

Wing subordinate units contributed directly to the War on Terror in Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, and throughout the Persian Gulf.

During the summer, as one of only four military units that fly the fire fighting mission, the 146th Airlift Wing deployed aircraft and personnel throughout the nation protecting lives and property from devastating fires fueled by the worst drought conditions in a century.

In February, over 40 members of the 146th Medical Squadron provided assistance to 3,400 people living in Southern Belize by delivering medical,



The 146th received two state of the art CC-130Js in 2002. The aircraft will secure the 146th's place in the Air Force mission well into the 21st Century.



Brig Gen John E. Iffland
Commander

Units of the 146th performed critical missions throughout the Persian Gulf Region during 2002.

C-130s of the 146th Airlift Wing, equipped with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems, fought forest fires throughout the U.S. during 2002.

dental, and optometry services to a population with limited access to rudimentary health care.

Perhaps the proudest moment for the 146th Airlift Wing occurred in June when the wing formally accepted its first new CC-130J, a state of the art tactical airlift aircraft that will secure the 146th's place in the Air Force mission. ■



MARCH AIR
RESERVE BASE

While deployed in support of Operation NORTHERN WATCH, the 163rd Air Refueling Wing offloaded nearly 16 million pounds of fuel from its KC-135R Stratotankers to over 500 coalition aircraft.

163rd Air Refu

CALIFORNIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The 163rd Air Refueling Wing, the “Grizzlies,” began 2002 supporting Operation NORTHERN WATCH. The wing flew 357 combat missions providing invaluable air refueling support to U.S. and NATO forces over the northern no-fly zone of Iraq. During this period, the Grizzlies deployed 245 personnel, on a rotational basis, to an airbase in Turkey. While deployed, the wing offloaded nearly 16 million pounds of fuel from its KC-135R Stratotankers to over 500 coalition aircraft.



Following the disastrous events of September 11th, 2001, nearly all of the 163rd Air Refueling Wing's Security Forces Squadron was activated to respond to world events. Some members deployed to such overseas locations as Cuba and Turkey, for Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, while others performed duty at Travis AFB supporting Operation NOBLE EAGLE. In addition to supporting these federal operations, the squadron managed to provide critical training for 35 personnel who were tasked to perform airport security at the Ontario International Airport in support of Operation AEROSAFE.

The in-flight air refuelers and security forces were not



Refueling Wing



the only ones seeing the world. The 163rd Civil Engineering Squadron deployed forces to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Turkey. Also, the wing chaplain spent 90 days at the South Pole supporting Operation DEEP FREEZE, and members from the 163rd Communications Flight deployed to bases in Italy and Turkey.

For the third year in a row, the National Guard Association of the United States recognized the 163rd Air Refueling Wing as one of the top five flying units in the Air National Guard. Additionally, the wing received its fifth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. ■



Col Albert K. Aimar
Commander

In 2002, the 163rd Air Refueling Wing was recognized as one of the top five flying units in the Air National Guard.

The 163rd Security Forces Squadron provided critical training for 35 personnel tasked to perform airport security at the Ontario International Airport.

PHOTO BY TED CARLSON/www.fotodynamics.net



NORTH
HIGHLANDS
ANG STATION

162nd Combat Communications Gp

CALIFORNIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The 148th Space Operations Squadron became fully mission capable on 30 June 2002, 16 months ahead of schedule.

The 147th Combat Communications Squadron deployed to Kuwait for 90 days to fulfill its AEF commitment.



The 162nd Combat Communications Group with its seven subordinate squadrons throughout the state proved once again that a challenge does not exist that the men and women of the 162nd cannot meet. In the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks, over 200 personnel were activated or volunteered for duty as members of AEROSAFE, a joint Army and Air National Guard operation to provide enhanced security at California's airports. The 162nd was responsible for security at five different airports throughout the state. This tasking was in addition to regular deployments supporting the

Air Force's Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF), other operations around the world, and inspections here at home. The 162nd deployed 110 members overseas supporting the AEF, expending over 11,570 workdays—a 90 percent increase over last year.

The 148th Space Operations Squadron continued their record of outstanding performance by becoming fully mission capable 16 months ahead of schedule. The 50th Space



Col Edward C. Fager
Commander

Operations Group Standardization Team bestowed the distinction of "Professional Team" on the unit in May and adopted innovative procedures developed by the 148th to be used for Milstar operations worldwide. The squadron performed over 8,500 Milstar communication contacts in support of military operations across the globe and supported over 1,300 Tomahawk cruise missile launches in the first three weeks of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

A small engineering management team from the 216th Engineering Installation Squadron was activated and sent to the island of Diego Garcia to expedite the planning of a major local area network upgrade to support forward deployed combat aircraft. An installations team quickly followed the engineering team. After the project was finished, members moved on to sites

in Al Udeid, Qatar and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Most of the team has since returned. Two of the engineers volunteered to extend their activation for another year.

In late August, 24 members of San Diego's 147th Combat Communications Squadron left for a 90-day overseas tour to fulfill their AEF commitment. The deployed team operated and maintained all voice and data communications systems at a remote airfield in Kuwait providing the vital links needed for command and control of military forces. The team was recognized for its outstanding performance and set a standard of excellence. At the same time, the 222nd and 149th Combat Communication Squadrons deployed personnel overseas in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. ■

Over 200 members of the 162nd Combat Communications Group performed airport security during 2002.

The 162nd deployed 110 members overseas during 2002, expending over 11,570 work days.

CALIFORNIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO



Officers of the Year-2002



1Lt Thomas Venable
Company Grade Officer of
the Year, 129th Rescue Wing



Lt Col Nancy Sumner
Field Grade Officer of the
Year, 146th Airlift Wing

The California Air National Guard is proud of each of its officers and airmen. It is their conscientious dedication to duty that makes our organization great. Each year, however, we are faced with the difficult task of selecting the California Air National Guard's "best in blue".

It is my honor to present the officers, airman, noncommissioned officer, senior noncommissioned officer and first sergeant of the year for the year 2002.

Congratulations to the best of the best!

Maj Gen Daniel J. Gibson
Commander, California ANG

Enlisted Members of the Year-2002



SrA Januari J. Reyes
Airman of the Year
162nd Combat Comm. Gp.



SSgt Yvonne E. Minor
NCO of the Year
129th Rescue Wing



SMSgt Jeffrey A. Sutherland
Senior NCO of the Year
144th Fighter Wing



MSgt Jeri A. Nieberding
First Sergeant of the Year
146th Airlift Wing





Future Missions

Posturing our force to be relevant in the 21st century is critical to our future. With this statement in the forefront of our strategic plan, everything we do in the areas of new missions and weapon systems must fill a need of the United States Air Force and

support the defense of our nation. Accordingly, the California Air National Guard (CAANG) is actively pursuing new aircraft and missions, some of which are pictured and described below.

F-15C

The 144th Fighter Wing presently flies the F-16C, a very capable aircraft, but not the optimum weapon system for the wing's present air superiority mission. Transitioning to the more versatile, twin engine F-15C "Eagle" will enhance mission capability.



PHOTO BY TED CARLSON/www.fotodynamics.net

Global Hawk

Global Hawk, a high altitude reconnaissance and surveillance Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) is another weapon system new to the Air Force. The CAANG has submitted a proposal through the National Guard Bureau (NGB) to join the Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and civilian contractors to provide aircraft, communications, and maintenance support at Beale AFB.



Predator

The Predator, a medium to low altitude UAV has been a formidable weapon in the war in Afghanistan. The CAANG, working through the NGB and the Air Staff, proposed an initiative establishing a Predator squadron dedicated to Homeland Security.



"If you don't like change, you'll like irrelevance even less."

General Eric K. Shinseki
Chief of Staff, United States Army



California Air National Guard Units



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AIR NATIONAL GUARD**
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Sacramento, CA 95827
Information: (916) 854-3570
www.ca.ang.af.mil



129th RESCUE WING
Mission: Combat Search and Rescue
Aircraft: MC-130P/HH-60G
650 Macon Road
Moffett Federal Airfield, CA 94035
Recruiting: (800) 821-2433
www.129rqw.ca.ang.af.mil



144th FIGHTER WING
Mission: Air Defense
Aircraft: F-16C/C-26
5323 McKinley Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727
Recruiting: (800) 369-6404
www.ca.ang.af.mil



146th AIRLIFT WING
Mission: Tactical Airlift
Aircraft: C-130E/J
100 Mulcahey Drive
Port Hueneme, CA 93041
Recruiting: (800) 831-9968
www.146aw.ca.ang.af.mil



163rd AIR REFUELING WING
Mission: Global Air Refueling
Aircraft: KC-135R
1620 Graeber Street
March ARB, CA 92518
Recruiting: (800) 633-2379
www.camarc.ang.af.mil



**162nd COMBAT
COMMUNICATIONS GROUP**
Mission: Global Military
Communications
3900 Roseville Road
North Highlands, CA 95660
Recruiting: (800) 295-3930
www.162ccg.ca.ang.af.mil